fishing community engaged in sea fishing using mechanised boats can not do fishing throughout the year owing to the shortage of kerosene in Kerala due to insufficient allotment of kerosene to the State: and

(b) whether Government will review the quota of ker ene to the State keeping in mind the genuine need to fishermen community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Central Government makes only bulk allocation of kerosene to the States/UTs. Its retail distribution to different sections of the community in different areas within the State is the responsibility of the State Government.

Allocation of kersosene is made on historical basis, i.e., past year's supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level. Kerosene is a deficit product and more than 40% of our requirements are met through imports. Requests are received from State Governments for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet fully such demands always; possible increase, however, is given, out of the additional availability at the country level, in accordance with a formula, under which higher allocation, out of additional quantity, is given to States with lower per capita availability, so as to reduce inter-State disparity over a period of time. Accordingly, an increase of 3.61% has been made in the allocation of kerosene to Kerala for the year 1998-99. This increase amounts to an additional quantity of 10466 MTs. The State Government may meet the requirements of the fishermen community from this additional quantity.

Oil Exploration Projects in North-Eastern Region

4108. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of oil exploration projectss in the North-Eastern region;

(b) how many new projects have been sanctioned during the last three years;

(c) what are the reassons for poor response of private sector participation in oil exploration in the North-Eastern region; and

(d) the details of steps taken to attract more private investment in oil exploration in the North-Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Currently ONGC is carrying out exploratory drilling and seismic surveys in the States of Assam (Lower Assam region) and Tripura. OIL is carrying out similar activity in the State of Assam (Upper Assam) and Arunachal Pradesh. In addition to the exploration activities of ONGC and OIL, Government of India has also awarded contracts for exploration of oil and gas for seven blocks in the North-Eastern Region, of which contracts have already been signed for three blocks in Assam-Arakan basin. Contracts have also been awarded for development of a medium-sized field Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh and a small-sized field Amguri in Assam.

In order to give a boost to the exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the country including the North-Eastern Region, Government has announced a liberal New Exploration Licencing Policy. This provides inter-alia a tax holiday for seven years after commencement of commercial production from the fields and exemption from payment of signature, discovery or production bonus and cess.

गुजरात तेलशोधक कारखाने की विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजना की स्थिति

4109. श्री अनन्तराव देवशंकर दवे: क्या पैट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात तेलशोधक कारखाने की विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजना की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है;

(ख) क्या इस परियोजना में कुछ अड़चने हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या इस परियोजना के लिए विदेशी कंपनियों अथवा निजी एजेंसियों से कोई समर्थन अथवा सहायता मिल रही है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) इंडियन आयल कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड का रिफाइनरी से भारी अवशेष के आधार पर बडोदरा में गुजरात रिफाइनरी के समीप 500 मेगावट की क्षमता वाला विद्युत संयंत्र स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) और (ङ) आई ओ सी द्वारा संयुक्त उद्यम कंपनी का गठन करने के बाद ही, संयुक्त उद्यम भागीदार और इक्विटी संरचना आदि का ब्यौरा ज्ञात हो सकेगा।

Amendment in Gadgil and Mukherjee Formula

4110. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing Gadgil Mukherjee formula, used for distribution of Plan assistance among States does not take into account vital factors and indicators of lesser development such as desert area, index of infrastructure, population of SC/ ST etc:

(b) sincewhen the present formula in vogue;

(c) whether States are demanding for a review of the same; and

(d) if so, what are the additional factors which are being demanded for inclusion in the formula and by when Government intends to revise the existing formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The existing Formula, which is the basis for distribution of Plan Assistance amongst States since the inception of 8th Five Year Plan, is known as Gadgil-Mukherjee formula. The Formula as given in the statement takes into account the economic backwardness of the States measured in terms of per capita Net State Domestic Product with substantial weightage which favours the less developed States.(*See* below)

(c) and (d) The States have expressed their views regarding the need for revision of the Formula. The suggestions from the States basically relate to revision in relative weightage assigned to the objective criteria of poplulation, backwardness, performance and special problems besides revision in grant loan ratio of central assistance and treatment to speical category States. The Planning Commission, at present, is examining the views expressed by the States regarding the revision of the Formula.

Statement

The existing formula for allocation of Central Plan Assistance to States which is known as Gadgil Mukherjee Formula as discussed below has been adopted with the approval of National Development Council in December 1991.

I. From the total Central Assistance set apart funds required for externally aided projects.

II. From the balance, provide reasonable amounts for Special Area Programme viz.
   (a) Hill Areas;
   (b) Tribal Areas;
   (c) Border Areas;
   (d) N.E.C.
   (e) Other Programmes.

III. From the balance, give 30% to the Special Category States.

IV. Distribute the balance among the non-special category States as per the following formula:

Criteria	Weight(%)
1. Population (1971)	60
2. *Per Capita Income*	25
(a) Deviation method-covering States with per capita SDP below the national average.	20